MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL.

REGISTER.

VOL. V.....No. II.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

College of Medicine of Maryland.

THE legislature of this state have passed, at their late session, an act to establish a medical school in Baltimore, by the name of "*The College of Medicine of Maryland.*" We have every reason to believe, that, if those who are entrusted with the carrying of this act into effect will exert themselves, this institution will prove of material benefit to the city of Baltimore and to the state of Maryland. In no part of the union is there another place, whose local advantages are superior to those of Baltimore, for the encouragement of such a seminary. In none of the large towns to the southward can the important science of anatomy be cultivated for any great portion of the year, without inconveniences sufficient to damp the ardour of its most zealous votaries.

In Baltimore, the continuance of cold or temperate weather enables the dissector to pursue his investigations for at least six months in the year. Nor is the climate on the other hand so chilling as to preclude the botanist from extending his researches. Most of the plants of warm climates will thrive in the open air in summer, and in winter they may be protected by artificial warmth. The productions of colder climates are not unknown, and in the shade of the neighbouring woods we find many of the vegetables that are found in the forests of Canada. From the central situation of Baltimore, in the heart of the union, connected with a great part of it by navigable waters, or by roads which are every day more frequented, it cannot fail to be an eligible residence for such young men as travel from home to complete their education. Here, where they have daily opportunities of communication with their places of residence, and frequent occasions of meeting with persons to whom they are known, they will be in a degree less removed from home, than if they were where these circumstances do not exist. Baltimore may also boast the advantage of presenting fewer incentives to idleness and dissipation than other large towns upon the continent.

With respect to its public institutions, there are several that may be rendered subservient to medical instruction. The alms-house, the city and the marine hospitals, all present a fund of illustrations of the doctrines that may be delivered in the college. The public library contains no inconsiderable collection of books upon medical science, to which any one may have access upon paying a moderate compensation. To those, too, who wish to perfect themselves in other branches of education, an opportunity is offered in two other colleges, wherein the sciences are cultivated with unabating zeal. The

college of medicine is the third collegiate institution that has been founded in Baltimore; so that we may now justly allow this city a fair claim to be styled an university.

In framing the charter of the college, very ample privileges have been granted to it. The government of the whole is vested in the professors, together with the members of the board of medical examiners for this state; who are jointly styled the Regents of the College of Medicine of Maryland. They are enabled by their charter to hold property to the value of 30,000 dollars per annum, and are authorized to raise 40,000 dollars by lottery. They are authorized to appoint the professors of such branches of medical knowledge as they deem necessary to be taught, and also to appoint lecturers upon those departments of science which are indirectly connected with medicine.

The zeal of the present members of the college, and the favour with which their undertaking has been received by the citizens of Baltimore, lead us to augur well of their success. The professors of anatomy and chemistry have already entered upon the duties of their office, and have continued to lecture, since the commencement of the season, to classes far more numerous than could have been expected from the short notice that was given of their intentions. In the beginning of next winter all the professors will assume their functions.

The following are the officers of the college:

President, Dr. Brown,
Secretary, Dr. Cocke,
Treasurer, Dr. Birckhead.

Regents, Drs. Birckhead, Bond, Brown, Cocke, Crawford, Davidge, Donaldson, Potter, Shaw } of Baltimore.

Dr. Warfield, of Anne Arundel county.

Drs. Anderson, Johnston, Martin, Noel, Thomas } of the Eastern Shore.

Medical Faculty of the College.

Drs. Davidge and Cocke } Adjunct professors of Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery.

Dr. Shaw, Professor of Chemistry.

Dr. Bond, Professor of Materia Medica.

Dr. Donaldson, Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.

Dr. Potter, Professor of the Practice of Physick; and

Dr. Davidge, Dean of Faculty.

The medical and chirurgical faculty of the state are patrons and visitors of the college, and their present president, Dr. Philip Thomas, of Fredericktown, is, *ex officio*, chancellor of the same.

Balt. Med. & Phys. Rec. No. 1.

The following arrangement of officers in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York, has lately been made by the regents of the university.

NICHOLAS ROMAYNE, *President.*
SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, } *Vice Presidents.*
HUGH WILLIAMSON, }
ARCHIBALD BRUCE, *Register.*
JOHN D. GILLESPIE, *Treasurer.*

Censors.

JAMES G. GRAHAM, *of Ulster county.*
PETER C. ADAMS, *of Greene.*
WESTEL WILLOUGHBY, *jun. of Herkimer.*
LYMAN COOK, *of Westchester.*
DAVID R. ARNELL, *of Orange.*
JOHN STEARNS, *of Saratoga.*
HENRY VAN SOLINGEN, *of New York.*
SAMUEL TORBERT, *of do.*
JOHN D. JAQUES, *of do.*
GEORGE W. CHAPMAN, *of do.*
JOHN C. OSBORN, *of do.*
ANDREW HUNT, *of do.*

Professors.

NICHOLAS ROMAYNE, *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.*

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, *Professor of Natural History and Botany.*

EDWARD MILLER, *Professor of the Practice of Physic.*
WILLIAM JAMES M'NEVEN, *Professor of Midwifery.*
BENJAMIN DE WITT, *Professor of Chemistry.*
ARCHIBALD BRUCE, *Professor of Mineralogy.*
JOHN A. SMITH, *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

Communication.

The great exertions of the states of New York and Maryland, in the establishment and increase of their medical schools, should certainly prove a stimulus to the medical faculty of this university to support, by every honourable exertion, their well established celebrity. The relaxation in the mode of conferring degrees, by rendering unnecessary the printing of a thesis*, the want of a botanic garden, and the slight attention given to so important a branch of science in this country, as that of mineralogy, certainly do not augur favourably; and the backwardness of our legislature, compared with those of the above states, cannot but be highly injurious. The estimation in which the present professors are held, will not last beyond themselves, unless exertions are made to transmit the mantle of Elijah to their successors.

The once celebrated schools of Italy and Holland, without their still more celebrated professors, have in a few years sunk to nothing, in consequence of the rise of other schools, where private exertions unite with public munificence to encourage and uphold the estimation they have acquired. Let not a presumed confidence of present superiority blind us to the future; but let the exertions of others augment our ardour to

* We may add here, in proof of the remissness exhibited to uphold the name of this university, that upwards of sixty gentlemen graduated the last spring, and received the honours of our medical school, whose names have never yet been given to the public. It is not presumed to surmise where this neglect lies, but it is a neglect which probably may help to influence the future fate of the university. To this cause may be ascribed the non-appearance of the names of the candidates in the present number of this Museum. E.

keep the station we at present hold; or, in a few years, we shall be but the "*nominis umbra*" of what we are. Let our legislature seriously consider the sacred trust committed to them; and strive by every means to aid that institution which, amongst others, so greatly tends to augment the fame of the state of Pennsylvania.

History of Diseases, &c. from Ancient Authors.

NO. II.

ANGINA*.

Angina, or the *Synanchè* of the Greeks, being a stifling of the breath, is a very acute affection, of which there are two species, for it is either an inflammation of the organs of respiration, or an affection of the breathing alone, having the cause within itself, without any sign of inflammation. The organs subjected to this disease are the tonsils, the epiglottis, the fauces, uvula, columella, commonly called the pap, and the high artery; but if the inflammation spreads, it likewise extends to the tongue and the interior maxillæ: in this case the tongue is obtruded beyond the teeth, from the excess of inflammation; for it fills the whole cavity of the mouth, and the redundancy is exserted over the teeth. This affection is called, by the Greeks, *cynanchè*, denominating a canine affection, either from dogs being affected with this disease, or from these animals

* Aretæus, Book I. Chap. II.

thrusting out their tongues, even in a state of health. In the other species, the contrary symptoms happen. There is a collapse of the organs of respiration, and a more than usual gracility or tenuity of each; violent suffocation takes place, so that the persons affected with it appear to have a secret and hidden inflammation in the thorax and circumjacent places around the heart and lungs. This species we call *angina*, from its internal oppression and strangulation. But the malady appears to me to be seated in, and an affection solely of the breathing, from its being vitiously converted into the greatest possible degree of dryness and heat, without any part of the body labouring under inflammation. Nor is this to be wondered at; for, among the Charonæi, the most acute and instantaneous suffocations happen where there is no visible affection of the body. Moreover, men die from a single inspiration, before the body can possibly contract any thing bad, either from inflammation or otherwise; besides, it has been observed, that a person has been affected with the *rabies canina*, or canine madness, from a mad dog having only breathed in the face during the time of inspiration, and where there has been no bite. It is therefore by no means impossible that there should be such a change wrought in the respiration internally, since an infinite number of those things that befal men has the same appearance and operation as if they proceeded from external causes: there are destroying juices both within and without the body; there are diseases, likewise, that resemble in their effects deleterious medicines; and it has been observed, that the vomiting produced both by poison and fevers are of a like quality. Hence it is neither foreign nor contradictory to reason, that, during the plague raging at Athens, some should think poison had been thrown into the wells of the Piræeum by the Peloponnesians, because men were ignorant

of the resemblance which the pestilence had to poisonous medicines.

The concomitant symptoms of the *cynanchè*, or *canis angina*, are an inflammation of the tonsils, the fauces, and of the whole mouth; the tongue falls over the teeth and lips; there is a profusion of saliva; the phlegm runs down very thick and cold; the face is red and inflated; the eyes stand out, are full, and very red; whatever is drank is thrown out by the nostrils; the pains are sharp and violent; but the patient, persecuted with suffocation, feels them *only* but obscurely; the breast and heart are affected with a burning heat; the desire of cold air is vehement; the inspiration is extremely small, till, at last, suffocation takes place, from an entire exclusion of the air to the thorax. In some, the disease communicates easily with the lungs; but those die from *metastasis*, or the change which ensues: dull, sluggish fevers arise, without making any sensible progress; but, if any one experiences a change to the better, abscesses happen here and there, about the ears and the tonsils, externally or internally; and, if their progress is not very slow, attended with torpor, the patient survives, but not without great pain and danger. If, however, on the disease changing to an abscess, should a large tumour make its appearance, and the abscess rise into a sharp point or head, suffocation suddenly takes place. These are the appearances of *cynanchè*.

The symptoms attending *angina* are the opposite, viz. a collapse, gracility, paleness; the eyes are hollow and sunk; the fauces and throat contracted; the tonsils fall down much beyond what is usual; a deprivation of voice, and suffocation follow. From the evil being seated in the thorax, the source of respiration, the strangulation which takes place in this species, is much more violent than in the former. Those to whom

it quickly proves mortal, die the same day they are affected; sometimes, too, before they have an opportunity of calling in a physician; others, again, receive no benefit from his being called in, as they fall a victim to death before the physician can have recourse to art. But, should this species ever put on a milder form, all the parts become inflamed, and the inflammation is driven outwards, so that we see a *canis angina*, or *cynanchè* arising from an *angina*. It is likewise a favourable symptom when any large swelling, or remarkable erysipelas appears on the breast. A skilful physician draws the evil to the breast, either by cupping, or by applying mustard to the sternum, and parts about the maxillæ, produces an external ulceration, and contrives a discussion. By these means, in a very short space of time, the malady, in some cases, is drawn outwards, and, when discussed, it immediately recurs, and is driven in upon the internal parts.

The causes are very numerous: excessive cold and heat lay a foundation for the complaint; but the former more frequently. It arises, likewise, from strokes; from fish bones penetrating the tonsils; cold drink; inebriations; repletion; and from all the evils incident to respiration.

THE CURE OF ANGINA.

There are two species of *angina:* the one is attended with great heat, inflation of the tonsils, and swelling externally, besides the tongue, gullet, and all the adjacent parts are swelled; the other consists in a collapse of those parts, and internal compression, attended with a greater degree of strangulation, so that the internal inflammation seems to reach as far as the heart. It is necessary to obviate this last as soon as possible, because it very soon proves mortal to the patients. If they proceed

from a surfeit or drinking, an injection should be given the same day, and it ought to be one of these two: either that used to evacuate the *fæces*, or by which some of the moisture may be drawn down from the tonsils and thorax; but, of all others, there is none more simple or efficacious than decoctions of centaury and hyssop, and they are likewise very powerful in drawing down the phlegm. If they arise from a thin diet, it is necessary to cut a vein in the arm, and the aperture ought to be made large, in order that the blood may flow copiously and with ease. This will not be sufficient to allay the heat; but the strangulation will be mitigated, and all the symptoms diminished thereby. It will likewise be of no small service to bring the patient to a *deliquium animi*, provided it does not take place; for some, on being blooded, have died in this state. Considerable advantage has sometimes been derived from ligatures above the ankles and knees; but they are attended still with greater advantage if tied above the wrists toward the elbows, or above the elbows towards the shoulders. If the patient can swallow any thing easily, the wild cucumber ought to be given, with mulse and whey in such quantity as is sufficient to purge, for this is more powerful than others to patients labouring under the disease: spurge and mustard are likewise serviceable, especially as both evacuate and clear the belly. But should the swelling not subside, cut the veins under the tongue, after turning it towards the palate; and, if the blood flows easily and in great quantity, this is of more service than all other remedies. It is likewise proper that moist applications should be made to the inflamed parts: in the first place, such as are of an astringent quality, in order that the matter may be repelled; wherefore let sordid wool wet with the wine of hyssop, and oil expressed from unripe olives, be employed; besides, cataplasms are highly necessary, of a similar nature to these applications; such as are made from dates moistened

with wine and beaten with the leaves of roses, and, that the cataplasm may be of a viscid and softening quality, let barley flour be employed, or linseed with honey and oil, so that a mixture may be made of the whole together. But, if it comes to a suppuration, there is need of warm applications, as in the other species of *angina;* take, therefore, the flower of fenugreek, with manna and resin in a liquid state, and sprinkle the leaves of *poley;* use, likewise, warm fomentations, with sponges dipt in a decoction of laurel berries and hyssop: but the most powerful of all to promote suppuration, is that very fine part of the dung of pigeons or dogs, which is transmitted and pulverized through a sieve or piece of linen, and afterterwards sprinkled on the cataplasm. Let the washes be mulse with lentils, or a decoction of hyssop, roses, dates, or of all together. The whole mouth must likewise be anointed, even as far as the innermost part of the *fauces*, with simples, such as the juice of mulberries, or apples macerated in water, or with a decoction of dates. The medicines should be composed of mulberries and honey, or wild rue and the juice of sumach, or the *diachelidonium*, by which is meant a preparation of swallows. But if crusts grow from the ulcers, the washes and gargles should be made from a decoction of hyssop in mulse, or of fat figs in water; and, besides these, starch may be added strained in mulse, or the cream of *ptisan* or *tragus*.—In the other *angina*, where a collapse of the parts takes place, every thing must be brought from the internal parts to the external, both moisture and heat, and all the flesh must be made to swell externally; wherefore let the irrigations be warm, with rue, anise, and a sprinkling of nitre, and the cataplasms the same as formerly. It is of service, too, to superadd cerate with nitre and mustard, in order to excite heat, because heat applied to external parts generally cures diseases of this kind; but a tumour in the neck is the consequence,

which, when much elevated externally, frees from inflammation of the lungs, but, when concealed internally, is very pernicious to those labouring under this disease. The persons who, from an apprehension of strangulation in *angina*, have cut the artery in order to promote the breathing with greater facility, do not seem to me to have trusted to experience in the matter; for a greater heat and inflammation arise from the wound, which add to the strangulation and excite cough; should they escape this danger, the lips of the wound do not coalesce, for both are cartilaginous and cannot be made to unite.

Molleson's Observations on Quackery.*

Quackery stalks unappalled "with twenty ghastly murders on its head, to push us from our stools." On the continent not uncommonly are we styled a nation of quacks and dupes; and it is indeed a horrible national evil which "has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished." Not a public paper but teems with advertisements of most glaring lies, which dupe and entrap the unwary. On the face of such advertisements of quack and patent medicines, let every one acquainted with the human constitution say, if there is any one composition or remedy adapted to every case or instance of any one disease. He must answer in the negative. Let any man, indeed, of common sense, say, if it does not require a greater or smaller dose of medicine to take effect with him than others of his acquaintance, of similar age and sex. What good, in general, can be expected from such nostrums, in any disease or

* From Sinclair's Code of Health and Longevity.

set of diseases, not rarely completely mistaken, arising from different causes, in different constitutions, under different circumstances? None! but baneful mischief! the ruin and death of thousands. I know it; for often am I called to visit the victims of quackery; their constitutions broken down, their health for ever ruined, by the deadly influence of advertised drugs, disguised, overcharged, and misapplied; drugs the same that are daily exhibited by the judicious with the best effects, under due regulations, and the proper circumstances. Let the genuine patriot, the heaven-born friend of humanity, put the question to men conversant with the treatment of the sick, if this is not most strictly true; if the quack medicines, so impudently obtruded upon the public, are not either liable to the above objection, or, otherwise, calculated by their insignificance to amuse and delude infatuated individuals, till their disorders be past relief; to impoverish the public, and eventually to injure the revenue, that a few impostors may loll in their chariots, or revel in debauchery.

But it becomes a question, if the regular physician be not, in a pecuniary view, rather interested in the continuance of quackery, which aggravates and multiplies disease, and brings them, as well as the quack, many a miserable patient. And it is to be remembered that the profession, however abused by the ignorant, give ample and frequent proofs, that they are deeply interested in the cause of suffering humanity. Assuredly, discreet legislative interference is necessary, and could not fail to produce the best effects, were any philanthropic member, by the requisite queries, to make himself master of the subject, with a view to bring it before the cognizance of parliament.

" In the reign of James I, the council dispatched a warrant to the magistrates of London to take up reputed empirics, and bring them before the censors of the college, to find, by examination, how qualified they were to be entrusted either with the limbs or lives of his majesty's subjects. Dr. Lamb, a most noted quack, and one who had got a large fortune by his pretended medicines, was at last obliged to confess he knew nothing of physic. Read and Woodhouse, two other contemporary quacks, were likewise brought to justice, which they acknowledged." (*Bede.*)

Might not juries of physicians, of surgeons, apothecaries, and, perhaps, chemical druggists, be occasionally instituted, under the solemnity of an oath, to try suspected and illiterate pretenders, who never underwent any regular examination of their skill in these departments, towards inflicting, if necessary, prohibition, fine, banishment at least from the scene of their impositions and false celebrity, pillory, or other punishment; to examine critically nostrums, or quack medicines, &c.? Similar juries might be held, to appreciate the merits of inventions, discoveries, or improvements, that, in instances of great or national importance, liable to the alarming abuses felt in the common run of disguised patent medicines, deserved recommendation to parliament might be given, with a view to appropriate remuneration and disclosure. In other inventions, &c. not liable to such abuse, as useful artificial limbs, different surgical machinery and apparatus, such preparations as Coxwell's concrete acid of lemons, &c. certificates might be given towards patents being granted in the usual way. To damp any litigious spirit, small allowances only should be made to the members of such medical courts; to defray which, fines, perquisites from candidates for premiums or patents, &c. might be founded.

But, as to patents already obtained by such of the advertising quacks as, relying more upon the faith of government than the justice of their pretensions, will not submit to scrutiny and the voice of the medical juries, let the following measures be adopted, as it is more to be desired than expected that their patents be paid off; let a tax upon their drugs, infinitely higher than at present, as well as upon their advertisement or puffs, be forthwith imposed, and progressively increased. This plan will in the end, as well as at the moment, augment the revenue before it can suppress them, so exorbitantly great, it is ascertained, are their profits; for there is scarcely one, if any, of the quack and patent medicines, but have been correctly analysed, and their ingredients found to consist of articles long in common use, and of comparatively trifling value. To obtain ample proof that these things are not spoken at random, it will, I doubt not, be only necessary to put the queries to that profession which has the best opportunity of knowing.

Surely, utility cannot be denied to some such methods as those proposed, which bid fair to discriminate between real and false pretension; to bring to detection and punishment the ignorant, specious, or daring impostor; suitably to reward the ornaments of the profession, and the benefactors of mankind; which propose to wipe the disgrace and reproach alluded to from our country; to protect property from pillage; population, and consequently the wealth of the empire, from decrease; directly, as well as indirectly, to assist rather than injure the revenue; while they may well exalt the honour and humanity of the nation, and finally remove weighty obstacles to the blessings of health and longevity.

Med. & Chir. Rev. No. 90.

*Account of a Contrivance to administer Cleanliness and Comfort to the Bed-ridden, &c.**

The contrivance here alluded to, is the invention, it seems, of Mr. Henry Earle, the author's son, and certainly does credit to his discernment and humanity. In order to understand thoroughly its construction and uses, a reference to the plates would be perhaps necessary. The contrivance consists in a double bed; the upper one has an opening in the sacking, in a suitable place, and of a proper size, to which a thin matrass, blanket, or sheet are made to correspond, with a similar aperture: this, by a very simple piece of mechanism, may be elevated to a sufficient height for the nurse to introduce a proper receptacle between that and the fixed bed. The patient being relieved, the bed is gently laid down again upon the under one, a thin cushion being placed on the under bed to fill up the opening, and make the upper bed level.

The various cases in which a contrivance of this sort is much wanted, may be easily conceived. In compound fractures, and after the operation for aneurism has been performed; in diseases of the knee, hip, and spine; in fevers, when, from long continued and unvaried position, added to moisture and heat, excoriation and often extensive mortifications take place on the nates, hips, and lower part of the back; in fistulas in perinæo; in the gout and rheumatism, in which the least motion is often torture; in the natural confluent small-pox; in child-bearing, particularly in those cases where puerperal inflammation or danger of flooding requires a strict horizontal

* Letter containing some Observations on Fractures of the Lower Limbs, &c. By Sir James Earle, F. R. S. &c.

posture; in cases of insanity, when coercion is necessary; in sickness, weakness from age, or any other infirmity, which prevents persons from leaving their beds, or from being moved in them, these double beds, the author observes, will be found of admirable use and assistance.

Ibid. p. 160.

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*A short View of the Extent and Importance of Medical Jurisprudence, considered as a Branch of Education**.

Whatever aid the science of medicine can contribute towards the good of the state, and the execution of its laws, has been by the Germans denominated state medicine; a new, but not improper, appellation, for that branch of knowledge which many writers have termed medical jurisprudence.

It comprehends both medical police and juridical medicine. The former consists of the medical precepts which may be of use to the legislature or to the magistracy. The latter is the aggregate of all the information afforded by the different branches of medicine, which is necessary for elucidating doubtful questions in courts of law.

Although there are some traces of juridical medicine in the Justinian code; such as determining the real period of birth, with a view to prevent the imposition of spurious children; it properly originated with the code of laws enacted by the emperor Charles V, under the name of *Constitutio criminalis*

* Copy of a Memorial which was presented by Dr. Duncan, senior, to the Patrons of the University of Edinburgh, in 1798, and which was recommended to the attention of his majesty's ministers, by the honourable H. Erskine, when lord advocate for Scotland, in 1806.

Carolina; in which it is ordained, that the opinions of physicians should be taken with regard to the danger of wounds, child-murder, poisoning, procured abortion, concealed pregnancy, &c. These directions, and the impossibility which was found of determining many questions by simply legal means, induced some legislators to enjoin, that all tribunals and judges should procure from sworn physicians, appointed to this office, their opinions concerning all the subjects to be mentioned hereafter.

Since that time, it has been treated systematically by many learned men; such as Fortunatus Fidelis, Zacchias, Alberti, Hebenstreit, Haller, Ludwig, Plenck, and lastly, in the most masterly manner, by Metzger. Numberless dissertations have been written on all its parts; and among those who have contributed to its advancement, we may reckon Ambrose Parry, Bohn, Buttner, Morgagni, Camper, and Gruner. Collections of cases, illustrating its principles, have been made by Amman, Daniel, Bucholz, Pyl, Scherf, and Metzger. These are only a few of the principal writers who have attended to this science; to enumerate more would be unnecessary.

From its very nature, it is evident how necessary a knowledge of this science must be to every medical practitioner, who is liable to be called upon to illustrate any question comprehended under it before a court of justice. On his answers the fate of the accused person must often depend; both judge and jury regulating their decision by his opinion. On the other hand, while he is delivering his sentiments, his own reputation is before the bar of the public. The acuteness of the gentlemen of the law is universally acknowledged; the versatility of their genius, and the quickness of their apprehension, are rendered almost inconceivable, by constant exercise. It is their

duty to make every possible exertion for the interest of their client, and they seldom leave unnoticed any inaccurate or contradictory evidence. How cautious must, then, a medical practitioner be, when examined before such men, when it is their duty to expose his errors, and to magnify his uncertainties, till his evidence seem contradictory and absurd? How often must he expose himself to such severe criticism, if he be not master of the subject on which he is giving evidence, and have not arranged his thoughts on it according to just principles? On the other hand, he may deserve and gain much credit by so public a display of judgment and professional knowledge.

Some acquaintance with this part of medical science must be useful at least, and sometimes necessary, to judges and lawyers. They will thus be enabled to estimate how much they may depend on the opinion of any physician, and will know how to direct their questions, so as to arrive at the truth, and avoid being misled by his partiality or favourite opinions. To the lawyer who conducts the defence of an accused person, in a criminal case, it is almost indispensable: without it, he cannot do justice to the cause of his client.

Before Criminal Courts, the questions which occur most generally are, respecting,

1. The cause of death, as ascertained from the examination of the body.
2. The sufficiency of the supposed cause to have produced death.
3. Probable event of wounds, contusions, &c.
4. The importance of the part injured.
5. Supposed child-murder; whether still-born or not.
6. Whether death accidental or intended.

7. Abortion; its having occurred
8. Spontaneously, from habit; accidentally, from external violence or passions of the mind; or intentionally, from the introduction of a sharp instrument, use of certain drugs, &c.
9. Rape; its being attempted or consummated; recent or previous defloration.
10. The responsibility of the accused for his actions.

Before Civil Courts, the questions generally regard,

1. The state of the mind; madness, melancholy, idiotism.
2. Pregnancy; concealed, pretended.
3. Parturition; concealed, pretended, retarded, premature.
4. The first-born of twins.
5. Diseases; concealed, pretended, imputed.
6. Age and duration of life.

Before Consistorial Courts, the subjects investigated are,

1. Impotence; general, relative, curable, incurable.
2. Sterility; curable, relatively incurable, absolutely incurable.
3. Uncertainty of sex; hermaphrodites.
4. Diseases preventing cohabitation; venereal disease, leprosy, &c.

MEDICAL POLICE.

Of incomparably greater consequence, and more widely extended influence, is the second division of this subject: it regards not merely the welfare of individuals, but the prosperity

and security of nations. It is perhaps the most important branch of general police; for its influence is not confined to those whom accidental circumstances bring within its sphere, but extends over the whole population of the state.

Many of its principles have been long acknowledged, and considered as necessary consequences of medical and political truths; and some few of them have acquired the authority of laws. But it was reserved for the philanthropic *Frank* to collect the whole into one vast and beneficent system, and to separate it from juridical medicine; in the old systems of which, it was neglected, or mentioned only in a few short paragraphs. His enlarged mind perceived at once, and fully vindicated its importance. The very name of medical police is now sufficient to attract the attention of legislators and of magistrates, and to make them desirous of becoming acquainted with its principles, and anxious to see them carried into execution. In fact, its influence is already visible in the countries where it is cultivated. If the principles of medical police were separated from the professional part of medicine, and communicated in a form generally intelligible, in what country have we reason to expect more beneficial effects from its influence than in this? Where is the spirit of patriotism and benevolence so prevalent? What nation is more generous in its public institutions? Where does the individual sacrifice a part of his wealth so willingly for the benefit of the community? It seems only necessary to prove that an undertaking will be of advantage to the state, to have it carried into instant execution. But, can medical knowledge be more usefully employed, than in pointing out the means of preserving or improving health; of supplying healthy nourishment to the poor, especially in times of scarcity; of opposing the introduction of contagious diseases, and of checking their progress; of securing to the indi-

gent the advantages intended by their benefactors; of rearing the orphan to be the support of the nation which has adopted him; and of diminishing the horrors of confinement to the poor maniac and the criminal? These good effects are not to be promoted so much by rigid laws, as by recommendation and example. Nor can it be seasonably objected to a system of medical police, that it is a pleasing dream, which flatters the imagination, but the execution of which is in reality impracticable. As well might we entirely throw aside the rules of humanity, because no one is able to observe them all; or live without laws, because no existing code is unexceptionable.

Medical police may be defined—The application of the principles deduced from the different branches of medical knowledge, for the promotion, preservation, and restoration of general health.

The effects to be expected from it are the general welfare of the state, and increase of healthy population; and are to be attained by means of public institutions, express laws, and popular instruction. Instructing the people, and convincing them of the propriety of certain precautions and attentions, in regard to their own and the general state of health, are necessary to secure the good effects of our public institutions and regulations; to obtain respect and obedience in many things, to which no express law can be adapted; and to induce them to forego what may be prejudicial to the safety of the community and of themselves.

Public medical institutions and laws must be adapted to the country for which they are intended. Many local circumstances, national character, habits of life, prevalent customs and professions, situation, climate, &c. make considerable va-

rieties necessary. And many institutions, many a law which would be highly beneficial to the public health, in some circumstances, would be useless, impracticable, and even hurtful, in others. These causes and their effects must, therefore, be particularly attended to.

The principal authors who have written on this subject are Alberti, Heister, Plaz, Frank, Huffty, Metzger, and Hebenstreit; to whom we may add Howard and Rumford.

The subjects which it comprehends cannot be classed very regularly or systematically. Its views will be different, according to occasional and temporary causes; and its interference may sometimes be advantageously extended beyond what may seem the strict limits of a branch of the medical profession.

Medical Police relates to

The situation of places of abode. Construction of houses.

Air. Means of counteracting its impurity—Its various impregnations.

Water. Its necessity and purity.

Food. Its various kinds—Comparative quantities of nourishment afforded by them—Cheaper kinds, which may be safely substituted in times of scarcity; bread;—animal food;—butcher meat;—fish;—vegetables;—vessels;—cookery; healthy; œconomical.

Drink. Beer; ale; porter; cyder; spirituous liquors; wine; warm drinks; adulterations of these liquors; hurtful additions; vessels.

Fire and *light.*

Clothing.

Cleanliness.

Professions. Manufacturers; mechanics; soldiers; sailors; men of letters.

Healthy propagation.

Pregnant and puerperal women.

New-born infants. Registers of births.

Physical education.

Prevention of accidents. From poison; hurtful; effluvia; maniacs; rabid animals.

Restoration of the apparently dead. Humane societies; care of the dying; danger of too early—too late burial; places of interment; manner of conducting it; bills of mortality.

Contagious and epidemic diseases. Plague; putrid-fever; dysentery; small-pox; inoculation; extirpation of them; leprosy; itch and pox; precautions to be taken to prevent their introduction, to diminish their violence, to destroy their cause, and to counteract their effects.

Management of public institutions, in which many people are collected under the care of the public.

Hospitals for the indigent: 1. Lying-in hospitals; 2. Foundling ditto; 3. Orphan ditto; 4. Hospitals for education; 5. Aged; 6. Blind; 7. Maimed.

Military hospitals: prisoners of war; lazarettoes; work-houses; prisons.

Hospitals for the sick; maniacs; convalescents; incurables.

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The above is an exact copy of Dr. Duncan's memorial in its original state. It was merely intended to give a general idea of the nature and extent of the proposed course of lec-

tures, but by no means to exhibit a complete view of the subject, or to enter upon the importance of its particular branches.

Medical jurisprudence and police also comprehend many interesting subjects besides those enumerated; particularly as suggested, among others, by the late lord advocate Erskine, the law of death-bed; for the most important decisions as to real estates, in Scotland, daily depend on the fact, whether persons conveying their estates to the prejudice of the heir at law, were or were not moribund at the time of executing the deed. It may be likewise mentioned, that scarcely a year passes in which parliament is not occupied with some branch of medical police. In the last session alone, inquiries into the state of vaccination, the quarantine laws, the county hospitals of Ireland, and the number of lunatics in England, were ordered. The subjects of these lectures are also daily attracting more and more the attention of medical philosophers, both in this empire and on the continent. Percival, Haygarth, Falconer, Bardsley, Pearson, and the patriotic president of the Board of Agriculture, have devoted part of their time to such investigations; and in France, since the preceding memoir was written, they have been systematically discussed in two very able works: "*Les Lois éclairées par les Sciences Physiques, par R. E. Foderé;*" and "*Médecine Légale et Police Médicale, de P. A. O. Mahon, Professeur de Médecine Légale, &c. à l'Ecole de Médecine de Paris.*

Med. & Chir. Rev. No. 90. *p.* 174.

Hydatids found in the Substance of the Tibia.

Hydatids have been observed to occupy the soft parts in various parts of the body; as the womb, the spleen, the liver, the kidneys, &c. The existence of these bodies in the substance of bone has not probably been before observed.

A man was lately admitted into the venereal hospital at Paris, under the care of M. *Cullerier*, who, in addition to some venereal symptoms, had a tumour on the upper and fore part of the leg, about three inches in diameter, and elevated two inches above the surface. This tumour was not painful, and was of a steatomatous consistence. The man dated its origin from a bruise two years before, occasioned by sliding through the steps of a ladder, and grazing the tibia in the fall. After having gone through the usual mercurial course for the venereal complaints, during which emollient cataplasms and hemlock plasters had been applied to the tumour without effect, M. *Cullerier* resolved to lay it open by caustic; which was followed by a discharge of thick viscid matter, of the colour of lees of wine, and without smell. The bottom of the cavity was observed to be hard, rugous, and insensible; which showed that the tibia was in a diseased state. The actual cautery was therefore applied repeatedly, and the charred part of the bone removed by a cutting instrument. A discharge of grumous pus in small quantity first took place, and this was soon followed by the issue of a number of distinct semi-spherical bodies, from three to four lines in diameter, which appeared to consist of a membrane of a dusky white hue, the thickness of the skin of a raisin, and half filled with a serous fluid. These bodies appeared to M. *Cullerier* to be hydatids that had been deprived of their life and undergone a change in their coats, by the effects

of the heat applied to the bone. Upon introducing a probe, a cavity was discovered in the bone, three inches long, and an inch and a half in diameter. During the following and several successive days, a considerable number of hydatids continued to be discharged; and among them one of a larger size, which was extracted by means of the forceps. It was of an oblong shape, and from its size, which was more than an inch in diameter, it appeared to be the parent of a number of smaller ones. In fact several were found within its cavity, in which was contained also a small quantity of serosity.

Med. & Chir. Rev. No. 90. *p.* xlviii.

On the Distomus Intersectus, a newly observed genus of Intestinal Worm. By M. Laennec, *of the Paris School of Medicine.*

Intestinal worms may be arranged into three families. The first comprehends such as are possessed of an intestinal canal, organs of generation, and the two sexes united in the same individual, or in different individuals. The body of these worms is commonly round, and more or less elongated. The second family includes those worms which have organs of generation, without apparent distinction of sex, and which do not appear to have an intestinal canal. It embraces the tænia, and some other genera, characterized by flat bodies. In the third class are ranked those worms which have neither an intestinal canal, nor organs of generation, although some of the species are reproduced in some measure as it were by slips, and in a manner similar to that of the hydra or polypus.

It is to the first of these families that the new genus described by M. Laennec belongs. The individual worm examined by

him was discharged by a lady who had laboured under diarrhœa for a fortnight, during which there was observed in her stools a considerable quantity of living *tricocephali.* The worm in question was half an inch long, rounded in shape, and about half a line in diameter. Along the whole of its inferior surface was perceived a sort of channel. Its body was divided into articulations like the tænia. One of its extremities was terminated by a brown point, which the microscope showed to be a large prepuce, on the lower side of which was perceptible, a penis very like that of the *trichurides tricocephali.* At the other extremity was easily perceived, by the aid of a simple lens, a head terminated by two horns or elongations, the points of which appeared clearly by the microscope to be perforated.

On examining this worm in the compound microscope, a knotty intestinal canal, like that of the other worms of the same class, was visible ; and a canal of generation at least as voluminous as the preceding.

A similar worm to the present, but three times as long, was observed some months before by M. Bayle, in a dead body, in the cavity of the peritonæum, it having, apparently, escaped from the intestines into the abdomen. M. Laennec gives this new genus the denomination of *Distomus*, from the shape and appearance of its head ; and he adds the epithet *intersectus*, as the only instance of the kind in the round worm. Its joints, though cylindrical, are in other respects analogous to those of the tænia. The *tænia articulis rotundis*, and the *tænia cylindracea*, of Bloch, and the *tænia serpentiformis non collaris*, of Goèze, resemble this species in the thickness of their joints.

Med. & Chir. Rev. No. 90. *p.* xlix.

French Prize Question.

The Rev. Mr. D. B. Warden, secretary to the American legation at Paris, has transmitted to the editors the following account of a French prize question.

By the orders of the French emperor, a prize of 12,000 francs is offered for the best dissertation on the *angina membranosa*, or *croup*, which lately proved fatal to the heir apparent of the French throne. According to the terms of the program, the nature of the disease must be explained, its origin and progress, its relations to other diseases, the mode of treatment, and the means of prevention. Foreign physicians are invited to the competition; and memoirs on the subject will be received till the 1st of January, 1809.

Med. Rep. No. 43.

Corrections and Additions to Davy's Experiments on the Alkalies.*

Some inaccuracies having occurred in the account of Mr. Davy's discovery of metalloidal substances in the fixed alkalies, the earliest opportunity is taken to correct them.

Mr. Davy stated that the basis of potash is volatile at a heat a little below redness, instead of at 100°, as asserted at first; and that the amalgam of the basis of potash and mercury dis-

* See p. [40] of the present volume.

solved gold, silver, and platina, without mentioning that a galvanic battery was used in aiding its operation.

His statement with regard to glass was, that the basis of potash decomposed it, by combining with its alkali, and by forming a red oxide, of a less degree of oxigenation than potash, which oxide was also procured by other means; and not that it was dissolved by the basis of potash in the same manner as metals. He also mentioned that the specific gravity of the basis of soda was to that of water as 9 to 10, instead of as 7 to 10.

Messrs. Pepys and Allen have repeated Mr. Davy's experiments with a large galvanic apparatus, consisting of 120 pairs of plates of 36 inches surface each, containing near seven hundred weight of metal. The solid caustic potash was used, moistened by the breath. The metalloid obtained was highly inflammable, swam in rectified naptha, but was with difficulty separated from the potash, in which it was plentifully imbedded, after being exposed to the action of the galvanic battery. Water dropped on it made the particles explode like grains of gunpowder thrown into the fire.

The metalloid obtained from soda is not so inflammable as that from potash, and therefore can be more easily collected. A globule of it, about the size of a small tare, thrown on moistened paper, became instantly red hot.

Mr. Allen has also obtained both the metalloids, by 4 troughs of 50 pairs of plates, each of 16 inches surface.

Athenæum, March, 1808.

New Mode of Preparing Calomel.

We have received the following account of a new method of preparing calomel in the laboratory of Messrs. Howard and Co. at Plaistow. In their method of preparing *calomel*, the defective operation of levigating (or in fact of grinding that solid compound in a mill, as colours are ground) with water, is wholly omitted. They take the compound previously formed as usual, and by a sublimation, or distillation from a kind of crucible, laid horizontally in the fire, with its mouth projecting through the side of the furnace, and throw the calomel out in vapour, which is received on the surface of water, in a vessel closely fitted to the mouth of the crucible. By this simple contrivance, they obtain the product in a state of greater whiteness, and much greater attenuation than the most assiduous levigation could effect, yet without any further change in its medicinal qualities, than may reasonably be expected to be made *for the better*, by reducing it to a state of the most minute and uniform division. It becomes, in consequence, about $\frac{2}{5}$ lighter, or 3lb. occupy the same space as 5lb. of the levigated sort. The experience hitherto obtained of its manner of operating, justifies our expectation of its becoming a valuable addition to the pharmacopœia. They propose to distinguish it by adding the term *hydrosublimatus* (which we think, though not quite classical, the most descriptive and appropriate) to the old name. The invention is due to Mr. Joseph Jewell, late foreman of the laboratory, and now a partner in the firm of Howard and Co. on whose account Mr. Allen, chemist, of Plough-court, Lombard-street, will supply any medical gentlemen who may apply, with specimens; which, however, Messrs. Howard and Co. will probably distribute

with a circular letter, addressed to the faculty of the metropolis.

Lond. Med. & Phys. Jour. No. 108.

Further Information on the same.

Mr. Joseph Jewel has invented a new process of producing calomel that shall always be in a state of an impalpable powder. This is effected by a particular manipulation in the last sublimation of the calomel, which he describes as follows: "I take calomel, or mercurius dulcis, broken into small pieces, and put it into an earthen crucible of the form of a long bowl, so as to fill about one half of it. I place the crucible on its side in a furnace provided with an opening, through which the mouth of the crucible projects about an inch. I then join to the mouth of the crucible an earthen-ware receiver, having an opening at its side, to receive the open end of the crucible. The receiver is about half filled with water. I lute the joint with a mixture of sand and pipe clay. The receiver has a cover, that has a side continued upwards for containing water, with a chimney or tube in it to allow the escape of steam from the water below. I then apply a fire round the crucible, sufficient to raise calomel in vapours, and force it through the mouth of the crucible into the receiver; where, by the water, while cold, or assisted by the steam when it becomes hot, it is instantly condensed into an impalpable powder, possessing all the qualities of calomel in its most perfect state. The calomel, when thus prepared, is purer, whiter, and more attenuated than that obtained by grinding. It is proper to wash the product over with water,

before it is dried, to rid it of the coarser particles which may form about the mouth of the crucible."

Lond. Med. & Phys. Jour. No. 110.

Observations on Domesticated Dormice.

Mr. John Gough, of Middleshaw, has published some interesting observations on domesticated dormice, which strongly tend to invalidate the received theory of torpidity. The account which he gives of his experiments is as follows: "Having procured two dormice, in January, 1792, which were caught in the woods but a few days before they came into my hands, I confined them in a cage, furnished with a thermometer, and placed in a chamber where no fire was kept. They were supplied regularly with water and food, consisting of hazel-nuts and biscuits. The weather in February being warm for the season at the beginning and end of the month, and frosty from the 16th to the 28th, I had an opportunity to observe that whenever the thermometer, which was attached to the cage, fell to 42°, the dormice became inactive, and remained apparently insensible as long as the heat of that part of the chamber did not exceed the above-mentioned temperature; but whenever the mercury reached 47° they became very susceptible of external impression, and awaked in the evenings, when they repaired to their stock of provisions, of which they consumed not a little. The same dry food being injudiciously continued through the summer, they grew sickly and died, so that I had not a second opportunity to attend to the economy of this couple during the cold season. About the middle of April, 1793, I obtained a third dormouse. Experience taught me to manage this in a manner more congenial to its constitu-

tion. In addition to the nuts and biscuits, it was constantly supplied with green hazel buds or raisins in spring, with ripe fruits in summer, and with apples and raisins in winter. This generous diet not only preserved the creature in health and high condition, but appeared to fortify it against the benumbing effects of cold, which it supported the following winter much better than the other couple had done; for it never slept more than forty-eight hours, and that but seldom, without visiting the cup which contained its provisions. I now began to suspect the torpidity of the dormouse, in a wild state, to be nothing but a custom imposed by necessity on a constitution which nature has intended to retain life during the cold season of winter, with but little food and an imperfect degree of respiration, as well as a languid, or, perhaps, partial action of the sanguiferous system. The uncommonly severe weather which ushered in the year 1795, confirmed this opinion apparently beyond dispute, for, notwithstanding the hard frost, it braved the cold with wonderful indifference. It awaked every evening, when it consumed in the course of the night a quantity of food amounting to one hundred, or one hundred and twenty grains, and frequently gnawed the ice which covered the water in the cage. It even undertook, in the coldest part of January, to repair its nest which happened to receive an injury, and accomplished the task in one night."

Lond. Med. & Phys. Jour. No. 110.

Observations on Quackery, &c.

The editor is happy to lay before the medical public a series of papers taken from the Medical Observer of London, on the subject of quack or empirical medicines. The importance of

checking the circulation of an evil of such magnitude, will be his excuse for occupying the pages of the Museum with observations on such of these articles as are most generally known in this country. The following "address to the public," by the editors of the work, will show its particular intentions.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

This popular work is conducted on liberal and independent principles, with a view to enlighten the *public at large* on the subject of medicine. The welfare of society is its great aim, by exposing equally to *every* order of the community the various artifices practised upon them in what regards their health and the treatment of disease, as well from quackery as from regular practice. It contains either the specification or analysis of every patent and advertised medicine, and with such critical observations on its nature and composition as may enable every person to judge of its real merit for himself. It next enters into a detail of such abuses as fetter the improvement of medicine as a science, whether connected with obsolete privileges and authority, or arising from the manner of conducting the attendance on the sick as a nefarious matter of trade; and, lastly, it connects with these important objects an impartial examination of the medical literature of the present period, making the proper disctinction between those publications which are directed to *real* professional improvement, and the instruction of the public, from such as are merely written for the purpose of an advertisement, and from the mere catch-penny traffic of the day. From this statement the present work has a claim to the patronage of every one who wishes to think or act for himself in what regards his own health, or that of his connections or friends.

No. I.

THE PECTORAL BALSAM OF HONEY*.

Sir John Hill, it is stated, was the inventor of this medicine, of which the following account is given in the bill of directions.

"The Linnæus of Britain (for such was Sir John Hill emphatically called) recommends this excellent preparation, as the most salutary and effectual remedy for recent colds, obstinate coughs, sore throats, difficulty of breathing, asthmas, catarrhs, and all disorders of the breast and lungs. Congealed phlegm, acrimony in the fluids and obstructions in the glands, are gently and safely discharged by easy expectoration; wheezings and uneasiness in breathing are speedily removed by a few doses. It takes off the irritation, opens the thoracic duct, and heals the soreness of the breast and lungs. Thirty years experience has confirmed the recommendation in the immediate relief and gradual cure of coughs, colds, asthmas, and consumptions. It is the greatest preserver of the lungs ever discovered, and contains all the healing, softening, and soothing qualities of that salubrious extract of flowers, called honey, and the richest balsams of the eastern world; it is as restorative as asses' milk, and never disagrees with the stomach; a common cold yields to its benign influence in a few hours; and, when resorted to before the complaint is far advanced, all danger of consumption is certainly prevented."

"Obstinate coughs, confirmed asthmas, and consumptive complaints, yield to the influence of this great medicine; in fact, it needs only a trial to convince the most incredulous of its unrivalled properties. Such are the faint outlines of the merits of

* Medical Observer, No. I. p. 15.

Sir *John Hill's balsam of honey*, the result of long researches into nature by that great *botanist*, who dedicated his life to the discovery of the true means of health in the vegetable kingdom."

"*Some general observations.*"

"If it be in the power of medicine to stop the ravages of that cruel disease the consumption, so fatal to numbers at a certain age in this country, this balsam will effect it."

"No particular *regimen* is required; only weak persons should take smaller doses. In all colds, small weak liquors, drank in plenty, are useful: suppers are to be avoided; and, in full habits, bleeding may be necessary; in consumptions, air, and exercise on horseback, must by no means be neglected."

Since the death of Lady Hill, it is asserted that Sir John Hill's recipes have devolved, by purchase, to a Mr. Shaw, vender of nostrums, in St. Paul's church-yard, who, by public advertisement, declares, that "Mr. Shaw being informed that a number of persons, *despicable in character*, and *abandoned in principles*, are making counterfeit preparations of Sir John Hill's medicine, he hereby offers a reward of fifty pounds, on conviction of any person *signing* or *putting* HIS NAME to any counterfeit preparation, purporting to be the preparation of Sir John or Lady Hill."

We perfectly agree with Mr. Shaw, that the person must be both despicable in character, and abandoned in principles, that would be capable of imitating or counterfeiting this medicine, or of advertising *tincture of tolu*, or *tincture of benzoin*, under the fictitious title of balsam of honey. Notwithstanding, how-

ever, Mr. Shaw's threats, we are sorry to observe, that there are *wretches* so depraved, as to be guilty of so serious a fraud, in consequence of which, these stimulating tinctures are sold in almost every market town in this country, and even sent abroad under the name of PECTORAL BALSAM of HONEY, which the credulous are induced to take from the supposition (as the title infers) that it really contains the properties of honey, and equally innocent.

We never heard Sir John Hill extolled as a botanist; and if he were the author of the directions, &c. which accompany this nostrum, we have no hesitation in pronouncing him ignorant of the properties of the medicine, and the nature of those complaints for the cure of which it is recommended. The expression that it is capable of opening the thoracic duct, betrays a want of anatomical knowledge. We are entirely unacquainted with Sir John Hill's character, but, if he were a regular physician, we are persuaded he would never have recommended such a medicine in those diseases, or have forfeited his character, by advertising a preparation which every person the least versed in chemistry must know, could not, by any chemical process whatever, be made from honey. In pharmacy or chemistry, there is no such preparation known as balsam of honey, nor is the spirit with which this pretended balsam is made, capable of extracting any of its medicinal properties. In coughs, arising from obstructed perspiration, in which there is always more or less a disposition to pleurisy or inflammation of the lungs, what must be the effect of this stimulating tincture? We can have no hesitation in saying, that it must be productive of the most serious, if not irreparable mischief. In incipient consumption, it must be equally dangerous, in hastening the formation of matter in the substance of the lungs, and of course the dissolution of the patient.

The observations we have already made on the effects of the balsam of liquorice, in pulmonic affections, apply more forcibly to this preparation. An improved balsam of honey is advertised by a Mr. Cundell, but in what this improvement consists we have not been able to discover. Every preparation sold under the title that we have had an opportunity of examining, is nothing more than tincture of tolu, or tincture of benzoin, which are as diametrically opposite in their properties to honey, as spirit of wine is to water.

It was our intention to have given some account of several nostrums, advertised as remedies for coughs, colds, and other complaints of the lungs, under the fictitious titles of balsam of horehound, essence of coltsfoot, essence of horehound, balsam of liverwort, &c. which we find so similar to each other, that to have entered into their merits separately, would be a mere repetition of those observations we have already made on the balsam of liquorice, balsam of lungwort and honey, to which we refer our readers.

Camphorated Water in Diseases of the Bladder.

A Spanish surgeon is in the habit of administering with success, in different disorders, especially those of the bladder, camphor dissolved in water. The mode which he employs for effecting the dissolution is, to put camphor, in powder, in a *Wolff's* apparatus, and to impregnate the water with carbonic acid gas. As the water becomes saturated with the gas, it dissolves the camphor, and retains it so dissolved as long as the water remains acidulated.

Med. & Chir. Rev. No. 90.

Virgula Divinatoria.

The *virgula divinatoria* is in high repute amongst the Welsh miners; what sympathy there is between a vein of coal or lead ore, and a piece of hazel, it would be difficult to say, but constant recourse is had to this mode of detecting mineral strata. Though made of hazel it is no common instrument; it must be a fork cut in a planetary hour; for lead, on Saturn's day and hour, because Saturn is the *significant of lead;* Jupiter must be in conjunction, sextile, or trine, and the better if any reception happen; but if it happen at square or opposition the whole is marred; thus cut, it is laid by for use in a heap of wheat or barley: this is to be held by the forks with both hands, and carried over the land supposed to contain the ore; over all the barren spots it appears unaffected, but no sooner does it impend over a vein than it presses strong down, and a similar attraction is discovered as between iron and the magnet. You will recognise in this the impious wands of the heathen, and smile at the continuance of the imposture; but how much are men the slaves of nominal discrimination? How often, while they condemn one absurdity, are they the dupes of others still more absurd? A few years since a similar rod was used in France, and obtained credit, for discovering *springs of water;* and is it not in the memory of every one, when numbers experienced enchantment, both in France and England, *without any divining rod at all?* and believed themselves to be affected by an invisible agent which the enchanter called animal magnetism? But it required too much exertion of the imagination long to expect *effects without any visible causes.* Those who wish to dupe the public have been under the necessity of changing their *invisible* plan; and we are now furnished with divining rods again, under the pompous philosophic name of *metallic tractors.*

There are persons who pretend to cure certain disorders, especially *erysipelas*, by breathing on the parts affected, and laving it with fasting spittle; but their qualifications are special and rare; their ancestors must have eaten of the flesh of an eagle, and they have certain incantations delivered down to them by tradition.

Evans's Tour in North Wales, p. 404.

A new Varnish.

M. Bompoix, chief apothecary to the French military hospital at Genoa, lately sent to M. Parmentier at Paris some coffee cups of uncommon lightness and beauty. They were glazed with a varnish which is held in great estimation in that country, and the composition of which is kept a profound secret. M. Bompoix, at the earnest request of M. Parmentier, obtained a knowledge of this secret from the artificer at the manufactory, through the medium of one of his pupils, and he has succeeded in making a varnish in every respect equal to that in question. It consists of linseed oil, lb.1½; amber, lb.1; litharge in powder, minium in powder, and ceruse in powder, each 5 oz. The linseed oil must be boiled in an unglazed earthen vessel, with the litharge, minium, and ceruse inclosed in a linen bag, suspended in it during this process, so as not to come in contact with the bottom of the vessel; when the oil begins to turn brown, the bag must be taken out, a clove of garlic freed from the skin thrown into the vessel, and the boiling continued. When the garlic is dried away, another and another must be put in, to the amount of six or seven. In the mean time, the amber should be melted in another unglazed vessel, in the manner hereafter described; and when the oil is sufficiently boiled,

the fused amber must be poured into it. In order to soften the amber, and assist its fusion, two ounces of linseed oil must be added to it. When the amber is wholly melted, it must be added to the linseed oil prepared as above, and the whole boiled for about the space of two minutes; after which the fluid must be strained through a coarse cloth; and, when cold, put into a bottle well corked to prevent it from drying. The amber ought to be fused over a very brisk fire. The piece intended to be varnished must be previously well polished, and the varnish applied in the following manner: the varnish must be mixed with a small quantity of turpentine, and a little lamp black; after which one coat is to be laid on the piece by means of a hair-pencil; when this is dry, another must be laid on in the same manner, and the process repeated until four coats have been applied, taking care that each be completely dry before the application of the next, after which the piece must be put into a stove, or oven, and, when the drying is completed, polished with pumice and Tripoli powder. The cups ought to be made of hazel, alder, or cherry tree, which are preferable to other woods for this purpose, from their being porous when perfectly dry, and not liable to warp. The cups, or other articles must be dried in an oven, and finely polished, previous to the application of the varnish. A red ground may be given to the articles by mixing a little minium, or rather cinnabar, with the varnish; or any other colour may be mixed with it as may best suit the fancy of the operator.

Month. Rev. Dec. 1806.

STATEMENT OF DEATHS,

WITH THE DISEASES AND AGES,

In the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, from the 2d of January, 1807, to the 2d of January, 1808.

DISEASES.	Under 2 years.	From 2 to 5.	From 5 to 10.	From 10 to 20.	From 20 to 30.	From 30 to 40.	From 40 to 50.	From 50 to 60.	From 60 to 70.	From 70 to 80.	From 80 to 90.	From 90 to 100.	From 100 to 110.	Ages unknown.	Total.
Abscess	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	12
Apoplexy	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	5	2	4	0	0	0	5	30
Aphthæ or thrush	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Asthma	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	16
Atrophy	17	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	25
Burns	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Cachexy	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cancer	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	9
Casualties	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	11
Catarrh	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	7
Cholera	181	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	189
Cholic	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	7	2	3	0	0	0	2	21
Compression of brain	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Consumption of lungs	6	3	6	21	51	86	54	23	17	6	2	0	0	31	306
Convulsions	91	5	2	0	6	9	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	8	127
Contusion	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Curved spine	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Debility	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Decay	15	4	5	3	5	6	14	8	9	5	4	2	0	4	84
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diarrhœa	21	4	3	0	2	8	3	9	7	5	5	1	0	7	75
Dropsy	1	2	1	2	5	10	6	7	5	4	5	0	0	4	54
Dropsy of the brain	27	13	2	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
Dropsy in the chest	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	4	1	0	0	1	20
Drowned	0	0	4	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	26
Dislocations	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	14
Dysentery	26	9	6	4	4	2	6	3	1	1	1	1	0	6	70
Dyspepsia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Epilepsy	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fever	6	3	3	5	2	6	2	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	36
Fever, intermittent	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
——— remittent	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	20
——— bilious	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	11
——— malig. bilious	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
——— hectic	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
——— nervous	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
——— putrid	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
——— scarlet	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
——— inflammatory	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
——— puerperal	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7

CONTINUED.

DISEASES.	Under 2 years.	From 2 to 5.	From 5 to 10.	From 10 to 20.	From 20 to 30.	From 30 to 40.	From 40 to 50.	From 50 to 60.	From 60 to 70.	From 70 to 80.	From 80 to 90.	From 90 to 100.	From 100 to 110.	Ages unknown.	Total.
Fever, typhus	0	0	3	3	8	8	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	34
Fracture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fungus hæmatodes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gangrene	3	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	20
Gout	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	6
Gravel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
Hernia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	7
Hives or croup	41	9	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Hysteria	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hooping-cough	15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Hæmorrhage	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Inflam. of the brain	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	12
——— lungs	14	2	0	0	7	8	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	6	48
——— liver	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
——— breast	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
——— stomach	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
——— bowels	10	3	2	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	23
——— bladder	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Influenza	3	0	0	2	1	3	3	6	3	4	3	0	0	2	30
Insanity	0	0	0	0	6	8	3	8	2	0	0	0	0	4	31
Lethargy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Locked jaw	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Jaundice	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Murdered	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Old age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	3	2	4	5	65
Palsy	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	3	1	0	0	0	3	18
Parturition	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12
Pleurisy	2	0	2	0	2	9	7	5	3	1	0	0	0	7	38
Prolapsus uteri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rheumatism	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
Scirrhus of the liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scrophula	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Small-pox, natural	7	6	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	30
——— inoculated	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sore throat	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Still-born	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84
Sudden	3	1	1	1	0	4	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	11	31
Suicide	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Stone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Suffocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Syphilis	0	0	0	1	5	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	15
Teething	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Tic douloureux	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tumors	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ulcers	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Worms	0	24	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Diseases unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	51
Total	614	121	65	79	144	236	172	139	88	79	60	11	4	233	2045

DEATHS IN EACH MONTH

OF THE FOREGOING PERIOD.

	Adults.	*Children.*	*Total.*
January	92	58	150
February	73	45	118
March	109	45	154
April	111	46	157
May	90	43	133
June	91	68	159
July	101	136	237
August	117	151	268
September	140	97	237
October	108	54	162
November	101	54	155
December	71	44	115
Total	1204	841	2045

The foregoing statements were drawn up, with as much accuracy as possible, from the returns given to the Board of Health, from physicians and others.

By order of the Board of Health,
WILLIAM NESBITT, *Clerk.*

It is presumed that the accompanying engraving of the facsimiles of several of our well known medical forefathers, will not be unacceptable. The rank they held in their respective countries, and the benefit we have derived from their labours, cannot but render any memorial of them agreeable to those who properly appreciate their merits. For sketches of their lives, see the Encyclopædia Britannica.

If the following statement is correct, it certainly deserves every extension which medical publications can afford; if not, it is incumbent on the person in question to exculpate himself from the odium, which such a report is calculated to produce. E.

The *Wilmington Museum* of the 16th inst. contains a report relative to the conduct of a Dr. *John Hamm*, of Dover (*D.*), which contains a detailed account of his endeavours, contrary to the express wishes of a meeting of the citizens of the town, to introduce the *small-pox*. In a part of the report it is said that Dr. Hamm declared that he had *vaccinated* an apprentice boy of Mr. Harris's, but told Mr. Harris "to say nothing about it, and there would soon be *small-pox* enough in Dover." "Throughout the whole of this business," say the committee, "Dr. Hamm seems to have acted as an enemy to his species, regardless of consequences." The committee conclude their report by offering "as their opinion, and as an opinion to be considered by this meeting, that John Hamm ought to be publicly stigmatized as a man, who, like the murderer, has a heart devoid of social duty, and fatally bent on mischief. On motion, said report was unanimously adopted."

JOSEPH HARPER, *Chairman.*

Attest, CÆSAR R. WILSON, *Secretary.*

We publish the above in consequence of its being stated in the report, that Dr. Hamm intends to move from Dover to some other part of the United States.

Democratic Press, April 19.

Home, on a more Direct Course to the Kidneys.

Dr. Pinkard, of London, informs Dr. Rush, of this city, in a letter dated February 27th, that "the medical world is much interested respecting some speculative inquiries and experiments of Mr. Home, to ascertain a more direct course of fluids to the kidneys, than by the common round of the arterial circulation. It is suggested, that the spleen may probably be an organ which is subservient to this purpose, and it is more than hinted, that immediately connecting vessels may be discovered between the stomach and that viscus."

☞ According to custom, the late numbers of the London Medical and Physical Journal are occupied with several cases, &c. from the Medical Museum, without any acknowledgment. I see that answers and observations are coming in to the editors, from correspondents, ignorant of the sources from whence the papers they notice are derived, and thereby adding, unintentionally, to the very illiberal conduct of the editors, whose sole wish, I am perfectly persuaded, is to have it supposed that they have an extensive correspondence in the United States.

E.

☞ The editor once more requests the favour of gentlemen forwarding communications for the Museum to attend to the payment of the postage; as he is determined, after this notice, to publish none, when such omission occurs.